

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 INR-05 LAB-01 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 NIC-01 /083 W

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R 262224Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4624

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLAB, FR

SUBJECT: CFDT GOES TO CHINA

REF: PARIS 18233

1.SUMMARY. SOCIALIST ORIENTED AND HIGHLY POLITICIZED CFDT
(CONFEDERATION FRANCAISE DEMOCRATIQUE DU TRAVAIL)
ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT A DELEGATION HEADED BY
SECRETARY GENERAL EDMOND MAIRE WILL VISIT CHINA
28 NOVEMBER - 13 DECEMBER. AS REPORTED IN REFTEL
VISIT IS IN RESPONSE TO INVITATION FROM REORGANIZED
PRC TRADE UNION MOVEMENT AND WILL TAKE THE CFDT
DELEGATION TO SEVERAL CHINESE INDUSTRIAL CITIES.
END SUMMARY.

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2. CONTRARY TO REPORTS THAT CFDT HAD BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT COMMUNIST-LED CGT REACTION TO CFDT'S CHINA VISIT, MAIRE AND OTHER CFDT LEADERS TOLD LABATT THAT CGT WAS NEVER A FACTOR TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN DECIDING ACCEPTANCE OF PRC INVITATION OR TIMING OF VISIT. IF ANYTHING, CFDT LEADERS SAW THE TRIP TO CHINA AS ANOTHER WAY OF ASSERTING CFDT AUTONOMY AND READINESS TO EXPLORE ALL IDEOLOGICAL CAMPS SO AS TO DISPEL ANY CGT ILLUSIONS THAT CFDT INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES WERE TO BE DETERMINED BY THE CGT-CFDT "UNITY OF ACTION" RELATIONSHIP AS IT EXISTS ON FRENCH LABOR SCENE.

3. CFDT IS SOMETHING OF A MAVERICK ON FRENCH POLITICAL AND LABOR STAGE. WHILE IT ASPIRES TO BE A REVOLUTIONARY FORCE DESTINED TO PLAY A ROLE IN USHERING THE POST-CAPITALIST SOCIETY, IT REMAINS PROFOUNDLY ANTI-COMMUNIST AND FULLY COMMITTED TO DEMOCRACY AND PERSONAL FREEDOM. ITS ALLIANCE WITH THE CGT IS PRESENTED BY THE CFDT LEADERS AS AN EXPEDIENT TO OBTAIN RESULTS ON THE TRADE UNION FRONT BECAUSE OF CGT'S STRENGTH AND EFFICIENT ORGANIZATION. IN ITS EFFORT TO DRAW A CLEAR DISTINCTION BETWEEN ITSELF AND THE CGT, CFDT LEADERS DEVELOPED A STRONG ATTACHMENT TO THE NOTION OF "WORKERS' MANAGEMENT" (AUTOGESTION), AND HAVE SUCCESSFULLY USED IT AS A CFDT TRADEMARK. AUTOGESTION, ALTHOUGH NEVER DEFINED IN SPECIFIC TERMS, HAS BECOME THE CATCHWORD OF CFDT'S SPECIAL IDEOLOGICAL ORIENTATION AND OF ITS RELENTLESS CHALLENGE TO BOTH CGT AND THE COMMUNIST PARTY ON THE TRADE UNION AND POLITICAL FRONTS. ONE CONSEQUENCE OF THIS HAS BEEN THE EFFORT BY SOME CFDT LEADERS TO DEVELOP CLOSER TIES WITH THE SOCIALIST PARTY.

4. IN LIGHT OF THE FOREGOING, WE WOULD ANTICIPATE THAT THE CFDT DELEGATION WILL BE VISITING CHINA WITH A SYMPATHETIC BIAS BECAUSE OF PRC'S CHALLENGE TO THE USSR AND WITH A KEEN INTEREST FOR ANY EVIDENCE TO SUSTAIN CFDT'S SEARCH FOR NEW FORMS AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NORMS OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ORGANIZATION WHICH WILL BE EQUALLY REMOVED AND OPPOSED TO EAST EUROPEAN COMMUNIST REGIMES AND TO WEST EUROPEAN CAPITALISM.

5. WE WOULD APPRECIATE REPORTS FROM USLO PEKING REGARDING CFDT DELEGATION'S VISIT TO CHINA.
RUSH

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